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# AAGT

Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy

November 2008

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## AAGT Board Minutes

### Now Online

The AAGT Board Minutes can now be viewed online on our web site: [www.aagt.org](http://www.aagt.org). From the home page, click on the "About AAGT" link, then go to the AAGT Executive Council and the link for the minutes is located near the top of that page.

## Photos from the Manchester conference can be seen at:

<http://www.aagt-manchester08.org/pictures>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/maetang/sets/72157594242250624/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/aagt1/sets/72157606571601390/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/aagt1/sets/72157606458380435/show/with/2717244829/>

<http://flickr.com/photos/aagt1/sets/72157606475227914/>

## 2009 Annual Meeting Notice—Call For Agenda Items

Since 90 days' notice must be given to the membership for new items to be placed on the Annual Meeting agenda, please begin to consider this now. The Members List (on the internet) is an excellent forum to discuss this with other members.

## November Greetings

by *Dan Bloom*, President

I was standing in front of a room full of 270 people in Manchester and I was seeing them seeing me.

My own breath filled my chest as if I were breathing for the whole room. All the excitement of my preparation for the conference was culminating in those opening moments when, with my hands gently holding the sides of the lectern, I began my part of the keynote speech.

I saw them seeing me.

I saw AAGT seeing me. I saw you seeing me.

This was the moment I “stepped” into AAGT -- waded into our sea. It was a terrific experience. It still is.

It was a wonderful conference, and we've been left with great memories of it. But time does not take good care of memories. The conference becomes background as the weeks pass. This is inevitable. We can try to capture it in conference photos, flash them at one another, and move on.

But most of you were not in Manchester. We who were there have a duty to pass on to you the benefits of the conference.

I came away from the sea of the conference with an image of this AAGT sea extending out in rivers to the communities from which all attendees came and where all of you live.

I want to know the headwaters of these rivers, of AAGT.

And I don't want to wait until Philadelphia in 2010.

I came away from Manchester with a commitment to develop streams of communication within and through this organization. This Newsletter is doing that -- but so far it is going in one direction, us to you. You can change that.



I want to find a way for you to speak to one another, neighbor to neighbor, region to region.

And not wait until Philadelphia 2010 to do this.

I applaud all the activities of our regions -- and especially those that are organizing their own local conferences.

I want speaking to one another to be second nature for us. I want us to risk drowning one another out with excited conversations triggered by gestalt therapy alive in our homes, our jobs, our communities.

We talk of growing -- of AAGT growing, expanding.

Growing is important.

But I want this growing to be in all dimensions: In activity, in energy, in discourse and discovery -- not just in membership.

I saw you seeing me—in Manchester.

And I want you to see one another.

I want this organization to help make this possible.

I want this organization to give you all the same chance to see yourselves as I had to see you when I was standing at the lectern in Manchester.

It will be a sight.

AAGT, through this Newsletter, through its re-designed website (coming soon), through email lists, members lists, discussion lists, through the new interest groups, through the revitalized regions -- and through whatever new you create in response to this call—AAGT can be a social mirror to reflect back to you what my own eyes still remember seeing in Manchester.

## Our Executive Council & Additional Board Officers

President: Dan Bloom:

Vice-President: Peter Philippson

Secretary: Sarah Fallon

Treasurer: Peter Cole:

Archivist/CE Officer: Ansel Woldt:

Communication Director: Charlie Bowman:

Membership Chairs: Robert de Vos:

RCP Coordinator: Brian O'Neill:

Organizational Representatives:

Bud Feder & Morgan ©Goodlander:

Interest Group Coordinator: Michael Diettrich-Chastain:

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## AAGT in Manchester: Some Reflections

by *Peter Philippon, Past President*

I want to look back on the pleasures and problems of holding our first ever AAGT biennial conference outside North America. I am loving how we are expanding as an international community, and I am also aware of the hurdles we face as we do this.

The first thing I want to say is how wonderful it was to be able to welcome so many friends to my home city, and the potential it gave for them to understand me better in my own context. I remember going to jazz concerts with people, and seeing them discover that people were happy to talk to them and laugh with them. At the hotel, people enjoyed the way the staff made themselves available, and wanted to talk to them, find out what we were about. I have never been kissed goodbye by a staff member at a conference before!

It was also wonderful the other way round: to introduce people from Britain and Europe to the AAGT community that I love so much, and hear from many people how welcomed they felt. The sense of newness and development was in the air, with large numbers of new Regional Contact People (RCPs) and potential regions, and the spontaneous formation of the 'International Next Generation Interest Group' (INGIG).

And there were exceptions to each of these: people who didn't like the venue or the city (and one person assaulted outside the hotel), and people who felt isolated and unwelcome.

Some people felt cramped in the space, and felt unwilling to go out into the city. Not long after the conference, I went to visit my son in Canada, and got some sense of what might have contributed to the sense of lack of space. I went to a market in the town where my son lives, and noticed a big difference to any market I have visited in Europe: the stalls were very widely separated with (to my eyes) massive paths in between. My response to that space was a sense of a lack of intimacy, people walking much further apart than I was used to. We went to stay in a hotel in Toronto, and to my eyes the room was massive. I sense that people coming from that culture and geography would see our streets, hotel rooms, etc. as being very crowded, not leaving enough room for them. Another factor is that air conditioning is not standard in Britain, and is being introduced slowly.

I also have a sense from my visits to America that I have been in situations where I had a sense of danger without being able to quantify it, or how best to respond. I imagine some of the people who felt unwilling to leave the hotel felt similar. And of course, for many people there was the strangeness of driving on the left, different currency, strange accents, the 'first floor' being above street level...

Looking back, it would have been better to have had a welcoming session for people new to AAGT, and explaining how we do things. However, that would have been a very different kind of session to previous conferences, because the number of new people was much larger, and a much higher proportion of the total conference.

These differences appeared in the planning of the conference as well. British hotels do not organise bookings and payment the same as American ones, and we had to work out our costings and contracting very differently. We also wanted to



factor in costs, being aware that many people were having difficulties with the exchange rate. We got a fantastic financial deal at the end, and I want to thank everyone who was part of negotiation. But we found that we were in a dilemma over numbers. Being our first European venture for the biennial conferences, we had absolutely no idea how many people would come. One of the things the hotel offered was that we would only need to have 150 people. This meant that it was highly unlikely we would be faced with a large surcharge for not filling enough bedrooms. In fact, the reverse happened: we completely filled the hotel and had to close bookings nearly two months in advance. The dilemma was that if we had started with a larger hotel, we would have been in difficulties if we had low numbers,

and in fact we would have had a lot fewer people, because the cost for both accommodation and meals would have been much higher! This is a dilemma that will recur. A similar dilemma concerned the time of year of the conference. We got the hotel so cheaply because it was the summer, with less business use of the hotel. However, it also meant that air fares were high. Finally, we were aware that the weather later in the year was more likely to be unpleasant. We had to hope that the pricing of the hotel would offset the increased cost of travel, and that people could take the opportunity to have some extra time in Britain or Europe, and many people did this. We were lucky that the weather was good.

A final and very important factor was about payment for the conference. We didn't realise in advance that for us as a formally American-based organisation to open a British bank account receiving credit card payments from all over the world would invoke a whole raft of anti-money laundering measures. It would have been simpler to take payments in US dollars, but this would have made us highly vulnerable to the fluctuations in the exchange rate, since we in the end had to pay the hotel in pounds. This meant that our online bookings system was delayed, until we found a way to receive payments through PayPal. Between them, Peter Cole our Treasurer, Sharon Warwick, the local treasurer and Steve Logan, our webmaster did a wonderful piece of work getting the PayPal forms online.

I hope I have successfully got across a sense of how our emergence as a fully international community will produce both new opportunities and new challenges both to AAGT and to individual people, both newcomers and old hands. I hope we can rise to those challenges with generosity and appreciation of what a big job the conference planners have to do.

And let us build on the success of Manchester 2008 to make Philadelphia 2010 another great event.



## INGIG – International Next Generation Interest Group

by *INGIG Members*

At the 2008 AAGT Conference in Manchester a new Interest Group was formed. The International Next Generation Interest Group, INGIG for short, was born of a night on Manchester town, from the special affinity felt by eight new gestalt therapists. We hoped to establish a forum for new and training gestalt therapists to socially and professionally support one another. We also hoped to reach out to more experienced members of the gestalt therapy community with the hopes of establishing an informal, mentorship community.

We brought INGIG to the first community meeting at the Manchester conference and many more have joined the interest group. We have members from four continents. Several seasoned therapists have reached out to us with their interest in mentoring our group.

Here's what we have done so far: We have an e-mail distribution list for INGIG members. At times the conversation is lively and at others it is quiet, reflecting perhaps the rhythms of our lives. Some members have collaborated on the creation of a paper and are seeking to have it published in a journal. A collaborative visual artwork is emerging. Many new friendships that span the globe are remaining strong. Most importantly, however, a new figure has emerged – a new and vital international network of emerging gestalt therapists.

Here are snippets from our online dialogue on the formation of INGIG:

"Manchester would mark for me a point in time when I either decided to continue with gestalt therapy, or give it away, and attend to my feelings of feeling directionless yet again... [In Manchester we] sought each other out, encouraged each other to try new ways of operating in our world and supported those... In a nutshell we lived and breathed the essence of gestalt -

that of being alive, and being open." – Rodney Cole, Sydney Australia

"I didn't go to the conference to network. I hate networking. I had no interest in doing that whatsoever, so I

didn't. What happened for me was that during the marathon I felt my heart soften and in the days that followed it cracked open and expanded. I met people who I experienced a deep connection with. I felt received, in terms of being offered a gift and also in having my gift welcomed." – Anna Bacik, Sydney Australia

"I now feel met and, at times, carried by theoretical and personal dialogue with both the

seasoned and my newbie peers. Gestalt now feels to me like the living, emerging theory that it has been all along." – John Bennett, New York, USA

"When the opportunity to attend the AAGT conference in Manchester came my way, I wanted to seek out others at the conference who are just beginning their journey with Gestalt and create our own community within

community... We very quickly united around a shared vision, that continues to unfold, quite organically, as INGIG." – Brad Larsen, Portland, Oregon, USA

"I really value that AAGT is there to help us support each other's commitment in [gestalt therapy] and also the initiative behind INGIG to look to the future and maintain that energy." – Lynne Brighouse, UK

Sinéad Kavanagh of Dingle, Ireland has been creating an online collage of the images and words that emerged for us reflecting on the formation of INGIG. A replica is on the following page.

If you are interested in joining the INGIG e-mail distribution list please contact John Bennett at [johnbennett-nyc@yahoo.com](mailto:johnbennett-nyc@yahoo.com). Please indicate whether you would like to join as a new gestalt therapist or as a mentor.



# INGIG ART



... Another co-creation of the INGIG Interest Group







## AAGT Scholarship Fund Benefits Conference Attendees From 7 Countries!

At the AAGT conference in Manchester, thirteen participants attended with the financial assistance of our Scholarship Fund. A record amount of money was raised prior to the conference [12,000 USD/8450 Euro/6,814 GBP] and an additional amount was raised at our annual auction. This enabled us to offer scholarships to applicants from 7 countries: The Philippines, the U. S., Australia, Northern Ireland, England, Slovenia and Russia -- thereby greatly enriching the conference as well as the recipients. The scholarship fund committee sincerely thanks all those who made this possible through their financial and other contributions.

## Save The Date!

2009 Annual Meeting

To Be Held in Madrid, Spain

Details To Follow

The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held in Madrid, Spain during the 11th International Gestalt Therapy Conference, "The Union of Differences," April 30 to May 3, 2009. The conference convener has agreed to give AAGT a room for our meeting, but as yet we do not know the time and date set aside for us. Remember, you can start discussing items for the agenda on our Members List. And you can send us items for the agenda now. We will send you details about the conference along with the formal agenda as the date approaches.

*The Leaf*

*The most peculiar thing happened today,  
I could fly.*

*Twirling and looping through the  
vast air*

*I was no longer of my Mother,  
her Majesty, who has held me  
All my days.*

*Free from my perch atop the  
world,*

*That place between the sky and  
the ground*

*Where I have always been and  
have known no*

*Other, I saw everything new as I  
careened away from*

*The familiar.*

*I could fly. The wind moved me  
like never before.*

*I always thought it was of my  
Mother but it is everywhere.*

*Then a miracle happened -  
I touched the ground,  
My new Mother, Earth.*

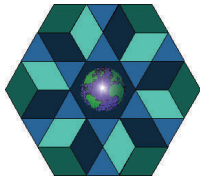
*All my life I have been among the  
familiar.*

*Now I am brand new and old.*

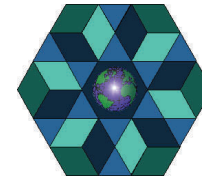
*I am of the ground of life.*

*I am the ground.*

*- Charlie Bowman, Fall 2008*



# Regional News



## USA Southwest Conference

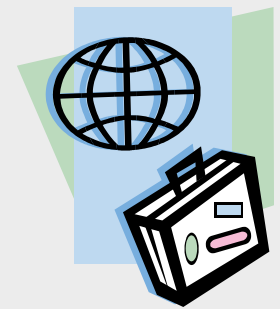
- Lynn Stadler, RCP

The 2008 AAGT-Southwest Conference will be held seaside at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in beautiful Pacific Grove, California the week of November 7-9. The room rates are: \$152.80 per night for a single room, including meals, and \$102.20 per night (per person) for a double room, including meals. The environment is peaceful and breathtaking. We've reserved a large meeting room, plus a break-out room for small group discussions. We'll plan most of our agenda together upon arrival. Our one pre-planned plenary session will be on Saturday morning. Peter Cole and Daisy Reese will share their work on "The Psychological Dynamics of Money: A Gestalt Perspective". Upon receipt of your \$60 registration fee, I'll e-mail you the housing form to reserve your room at Asilomar. To register, please send a check or money order made out to AAGT-SW to: Lynn Stadler AAGT RCP 410 E. Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 805/962.9992  
[lynnstadler@verizon.net](mailto:lynnstadler@verizon.net)

**We always need news  
of the Regions !!!**

**If you are an RCP,  
please send any up-  
dates, news of your re-  
gion or announcements  
to Marcy Stern:**

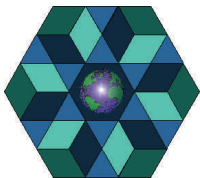
[imawareru@comcast.net](mailto:imawareru@comcast.net)



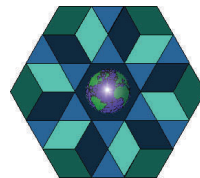
## YOUR REGIONAL CONTACT PERSONS (RCP)

Alexander	Dagmar	Scotland	<a href="mailto:dagmaralexander@yahoo.com">dagmaralexander@yahoo.com</a>
Blend	Jon	UK	<a href="mailto:life-changes@btlworld.com">life-changes@btlworld.com</a>
Blom	Susanne	Denmark	<a href="mailto:kreos.blom@post.tele.dk">kreos.blom@post.tele.dk</a>
Bommer	Isabel	Germany	<a href="mailto:info@ibommer.de">info@ibommer.de</a>
Bouwman	Petra	Netherlands	<a href="mailto:petrabouwman@hotmail.com">petrabouwman@hotmail.com</a>
Cassiers	Greet	Belgium	<a href="mailto:greetcassiers@multidimens.be">greetcassiers@multidimens.be</a>
Gaite-Navaro	Mario	Spain	<a href="mailto:minitauro43@hotmail.com">minitauro43@hotmail.com</a>
Galli	Sabina	Italy	<a href="mailto:sabinagalli@gmail.com">sabinagalli@gmail.com</a>
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Gray	Catherine	NE USA	<a href="mailto:cathybgray@gmail.com">cathybgray@gmail.com</a>
Gregory	Susan	At Large	<a href="mailto:GestaltSing@aol.com">GestaltSing@aol.com</a>
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Harada	Seishi	Japan	<a href="mailto:vsopvsop@d7.dion.ne.jp">vsopvsop@d7.dion.ne.jp</a>
Hernani	Villoria	Phillipines	<a href="mailto:healinghome@yahoo.com">healinghome@yahoo.com</a>
Leibig	Anne	SE USA	<a href="mailto:abjl@mounet.com">abjl@mounet.com</a>
MacKay	Bea	W Canada	<a href="mailto:bea@drbeamackay.com">bea@drbeamackay.com</a>
Mosher	Vaughn	Bermuda	<a href="mailto:vmosher@ibl.bm">vmosher@ibl.bm</a>
Myles	Marilyn	Mid W USA	<a href="mailto:mylestherapy@comcast.net">mylestherapy@comcast.net</a>
Nichols	Maryanne	Canada	<a href="mailto:Maryanne.nichols@gmail.com">Maryanne.nichols@gmail.com</a>
Sen	Emre	Turkey	<a href="mailto:emrechopin@yahoo.com">emrechopin@yahoo.com</a>
Shipman	Kerry	Australia	<a href="mailto:keiv@centernet.com.au">keiv@centernet.com.au</a>
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# Regional News



## News from Down Under—Another Regional Conference in the Works!

- Kerry Shipman, RCP

I decided to go ahead with organizing a local regional conference after having dinner with Anne Liebig, (RCP, SE United States) at the Manchester Conference. She was telling me about the regional AAGT conference she organizes annually and I thought: "I could do that back home." Within the same conversation Anne asked me if I would be interested in taking over the role as RCP Australia. I was already making plans to gather the gestalt therapists from South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales and when Brian and Jenny O'Neil invited me to take on the task of RCP Oz, I was already running.

Since returning to Australia I have found and booked a location for the gathering - <http://www.gunnebah.com.au> and have been grappling with the process of defining a theme. I also want the venue to be affordable and in a beautiful location close to the border. I feel I have succeeded on both accounts. I have no idea how many will attend, it could be 5 or 50 and no matter what the number my excitement and energy will not be diminished. My sense of connection with the wider AAGT world community has been wonderful and I hope any of you visiting Australia in November 2009 will come and join us.

As therapists we know the importance of context within the relational field of the therapeutic process and the need for contact with fellow professionals within our therapeutic community. As an inaugural conference we will be given the opportunity to experience the context of our unique contribution and presence within our local gestalt community via:

- Coming together as a community
- Establishing networks of continuing support
- Participating in / presenting workshops
- Honoring each others uniqueness
- Giving a voice to Gestalt's capacity to nurture and sustain the relationship between context, uniqueness and community.

## News from the Northeast USA Region

- Bud Feder

The Northeast USA region of AAGT has recently been re-activated after a number of years of slumber. We have participated in the following events in NYC, past and future, in collaboration with local institutes:

- ♦ An all-day inter-institute showing of films of the work of Fritz Perls, Isadore From and Lynne Jacobs, followed by discussions...Oct 4, 2008
- ♦ An all-day inter-institute event, topic and exact date in 2009 - to be announced.

**These are just the first of many activities being planned. More to follow as plans emerge more fully.**

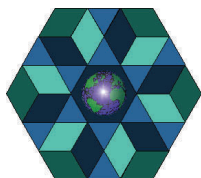
## News from Poland!

This is the AAGT Polish e-group. I think it would be interesting to add some foreign language to the newsletter. - Adam Kincel

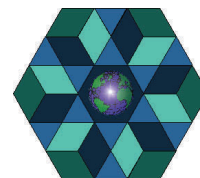
Zapraszam do eksperymentowania na polskiej liście dyskusyjnej AAGT. Jest to szansa dla Was na komunikację z szerszym gronem osób, które są zainteresowane teorią, praktyką, filozofią, coachingiem, counsellingiem i psychoterapią gestalt. Grupa ma charakter otwarty i jest adresowana nie tylko do terapeutów, ale do wszystkich osób zainteresowanych gestalt.

Więcej informacji o liście dyskusyjnej znajdziesz na:

<http://groups.google.com/group/aagt-polska>.



# Regional News



## Meet Your Regional Contact Persons

### **Sabina Galli — Italy**

I am Sabina Galli, RCP for Italy. I am licensed as a psychologist and a psychotherapist in Italy, and as LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker) in New York State. After having lived and worked in the US for almost 10 years, I moved to Rome almost two years ago. In Rome, I have a private practice and I teach. I trained in Gestalt Therapy at the Gestalt Associates for Psychotherapy in New York.

### **Theo Gielis — Holland**

I attended my first AAGT Conference in Manchester and have become a member when I made the booking. I enjoyed the conference in Manchester very much and look forward to further contacts. I will represent AAGT in Holland jointly with Petra Bouwman.

I am an economist by profession and have worked as a professional and manager in organizations for over 20 years. The politics in my job as a managing partner of a large consulting company were dominating and I got simply tired of it. And so I decided to quit ten years ago and work as a self employed consultant and counselor for people in organizations.

I realized from the beginning that many issues that were discussed with my clients were personal and I wanted to professionally strengthen my competencies in that area. Among many other things, I finished my training as a Gestalt therapist a few years ago and use Gestalt in my work with both individuals and groups

in organizations.

### **Anne Leibig — South East USA**

I live on the Clinch River, Appalachian Mountains, Virginia USA. I work with others to co-create the Appalachian Gestalt Training Institute in Asheville NC. We have facilitated two regional conferences, as the leaves turn. It is fun and helps keep the flow and advancing of Gestalt Therapy. I am retired from a 25 year private practice and have taken to training and writing.

### **Emre Sen — Turkey**

I am RCP for Turkey at the moment. I am originally trained as a concert pianist and I teach at the University of Music in Ankara/Turkey. I am a 1st year trainee at the Gestalt Psychotherapy Institute of York. Love to all.

### **Seishi Harada — Japan**

I live in Tokyo and I've been in private practice for 15 years. I've been researching body mechanisms of Introjection and wrote a book about "Introjection and Addiction" this year. I'm going to publish a Japanese translation of Fritz Perls' autobiography next year.

### **Kerry Shipman — Australia**

I live in a small rural town in Northern New South Wales and have a private practice in the large regional town of Coff's Harbour; 50 minutes drive from where I live. I am also a trainer at the Coff's Harbour campus of the Northern Rivers Gestalt Institute.

I am planning a regional conference/get-together from 6-8 November 2009 and any of you planning to be in Australia at that time are very welcome to join in. I am also a part-time permanent employee with the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service. My hometown, Dorrig, is on the edge of a World Heritage rainforest administered by National Parks.

### **Stefan Hahn — Germany**

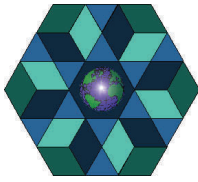
I am living in Koblenz. A 110.000 citizen city in western Germany (120 km away from Luxembourg and 200 km away from France). I am RCP for Germany together with Olaf Zielke and Deirdre Winter. I have been an AAGT member for 3 years.

I finished my Gestalt training in 2004 and for 12 years I have worked in children's homes as an educator and in psychiatric hospitals as a social worker and psychotherapist. Now I am working in a small psychiatric hospital and in private practice.

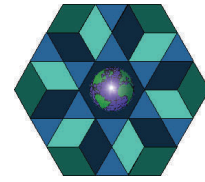
My favorite subject in Gestalt is working with Groups and offering Gestalt Trainings. Another passion is gestalt history - reading early Gestalt books and texts like Isadore From, the Perls', Jim Simkin, and others.

I am married and have 3 children (2 boys - 14





# Regional News



## Meet Your Regional Contact Persons

and 11 - and 1 daughter - 7 years old, also a friendly dog (he mostly wants to play). I am 40 years old. I love classical music and I play piano and pipe organ.

### Susan Gregory — RCP At Large

I am a Gestalt therapist as well as a singing teacher and a teacher of the Gindler approach to breath and bodywork. Right now, I am president of the New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy.

I have written a few articles, published in Gestalt journals and translated into French, Spanish and German on working with voice as a therapeutic tool, and on Elsa Gindler and how her work was woven into early Gestalt therapy.

### Bea Mackay — Canada

I have been involved with AAGT since 1999. I have been in private practice for over 20 years. I did my doctoral research on Two-Chair Technique. I have written a manual on how to do Two-Chair Technique and am looking for a publisher for it. I have recently submitted the manuscript to one publisher. I have a self-help project on the Internet, [www.B-Sort.com](http://www.B-Sort.com) that is based upon the Two-Chair technique. It is called the B-Sort for Intimate Relationships. It is a tool for helping people who feel stuck about staying in or leaving their relationship and are motivated to resolve their dilemma.

I intend to adapt it to the same decision-making tool for jobs/careers. I have a blog on the B-Sort site in which I write about all

sorts of things - communication skills, emotion, couple dynamics, improving couple relationships, parenting, some personal stories and experiences. What I write about is based in Gestalt therapy and Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy. Check it out. I enjoy the contact with RCP's from all over the world.

### Olaf Zielke — Germany

I'm one of the three German RCPs (with Stefan Hahn and Deidre Winter). I'm living in Hannover, Germany and I'm working as a Gestalt therapist and a teacher in school. For 4 years I was a member of the executive board of the German Association for Gestalt Therapy and I'm one of the organizers for the 2010 EAGT Gestalt Conference in Berlin.

### Lynn Stadler — Southwest USA

I'm a Gestalt psychotherapist living and working in Santa Barbara, California. I see adults, children, adolescents, and families in my private practice, and am very active in AAGT, the Violet Solomon Oaklander Foundation ([vsof.org](http://vsof.org)), Santa Barbara Gestalt Associates, and my Gateway to Gestalt training program, where I teach Gestalt therapy for children and adults. I attended my first AAGT conference in 1996, and I've been an RCP for three years. The Southwest region has a conference every Autumn -- this year is the 13th Annual! For more information, please contact me at [lynnstadler@verizon.net](mailto:lynnstadler@verizon.net) or 805/962.9992.

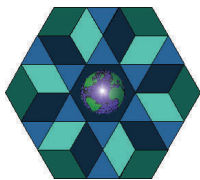
### Emmanuel V. Hernani — Philippines

I am currently working as the university counselor and graduate and undergraduate program professor of a state university here in Cebu, Philippines. I work with varied clientele using a Gestalt oriented approach. I have been an RCP since 2004

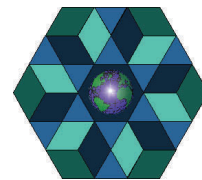
### Vaughn Mosher — Bermuda

I am just newly assigned the role of RCP for Bermuda having attended the Manchester Conference. I initially had exposure to Gestalt in 1971 when Esalen came to New York and have been a distant supporter ever since that time. My background had been in the addictions field and for the past 20 years have managed a work-based counseling program (Employee Assistance Program) or over 60 client companies in Bermuda.

Along with Phil Brownell and a few others, we have created the Gestalt Training Institute of Bermuda (GTIB) which will provide interested Bermuda professionals the essential exposure to a curriculum and international faculty leading toward a Master's degree in Gestalt-driven Organizational Development and Executive/Life Coaching. We expect the Bermuda association will lead to more AAGT/EAGT affiliates and members.



# Regional News



## AAGT-SE USA Holds Second Annual Conference—Anne Leibig, RCP

"Being a Gestalt Community - as the Leaves Turn" happened in Asheville North Carolina on the week-end of October 17-19th, 2008! Twenty-five participants and presenters gathered from Massachusetts, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wyoming. The mixture of AAGT founders, Rachel Brier, Sylvia Crocker, and Jack Neggerman, with Michael Diettrich-Chastain from the Manchester newly formed INGIG (International New Generation Gestalt Interest Group) and regional mental health practitioners and students provided an appreciative exchange. All were glad there were new faces and those who were new to Gestalt Therapy were wanting to hear the origin stories and feel connected to the International Community gatherings.

We followed the AAGT formula for being together: weaving the community meetings, process groups, workshops and partying into the brief time of Friday evening until Sunday morning. The three hour afternoon break left time for each to find what interested them, a nap, shopping, hiking, etc. Saturday evening Nicholas Emmanuel of the Appalachian Gestalt Training Institute led us to the Fiddlin' Pig, for southern food, live bluegrass and the opportunity to clog and flat foot. This replaced the Irish Interest Group which we could not recreate. On Sunday morning Dick Overly of the Gentle Bio-Energetics Institute led us in an energy creating experiential closing. At the final community meeting we read parts of Dan Bloom's presidential letter: "All of us together make this a wonderfully diverse organization of creative people always creating and developing gestalt therapy in new directions - united with a shared value of mutual respect and commitment to personal dialogue." Ansel Woldt, our archivist and continuing education officer, endorsed me as "On-Site CE Registrar" and ten participants took advantage of the opportunity to earn contact hours for their licensing process. We were connected as AAGT - an International community. The participants gave high ratings in their evaluations and affirmed doing it again next year - same time same place. Put on your calendar to attend October 16-18, 2009, Asheville North Carolina.

Empowered to call the conference as the AAGT RCP, I did experience being a Gestalt Community among the beauty of the Autumn Appalachian hardwoods. I read and felt the following words from Mary Oliver's poem:

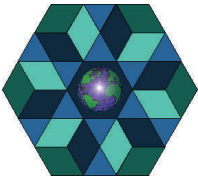
*When I Am Among the Trees*

*Around me the trees stir in their leaves  
and call out, "Stay awhile."  
The light flows from their branches.*

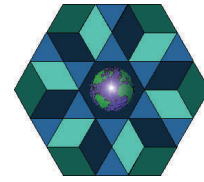
*And they call again, "It's simple," they say,  
"and you too have come  
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be  
filled with the light, and to shine."*







# Interest Groups



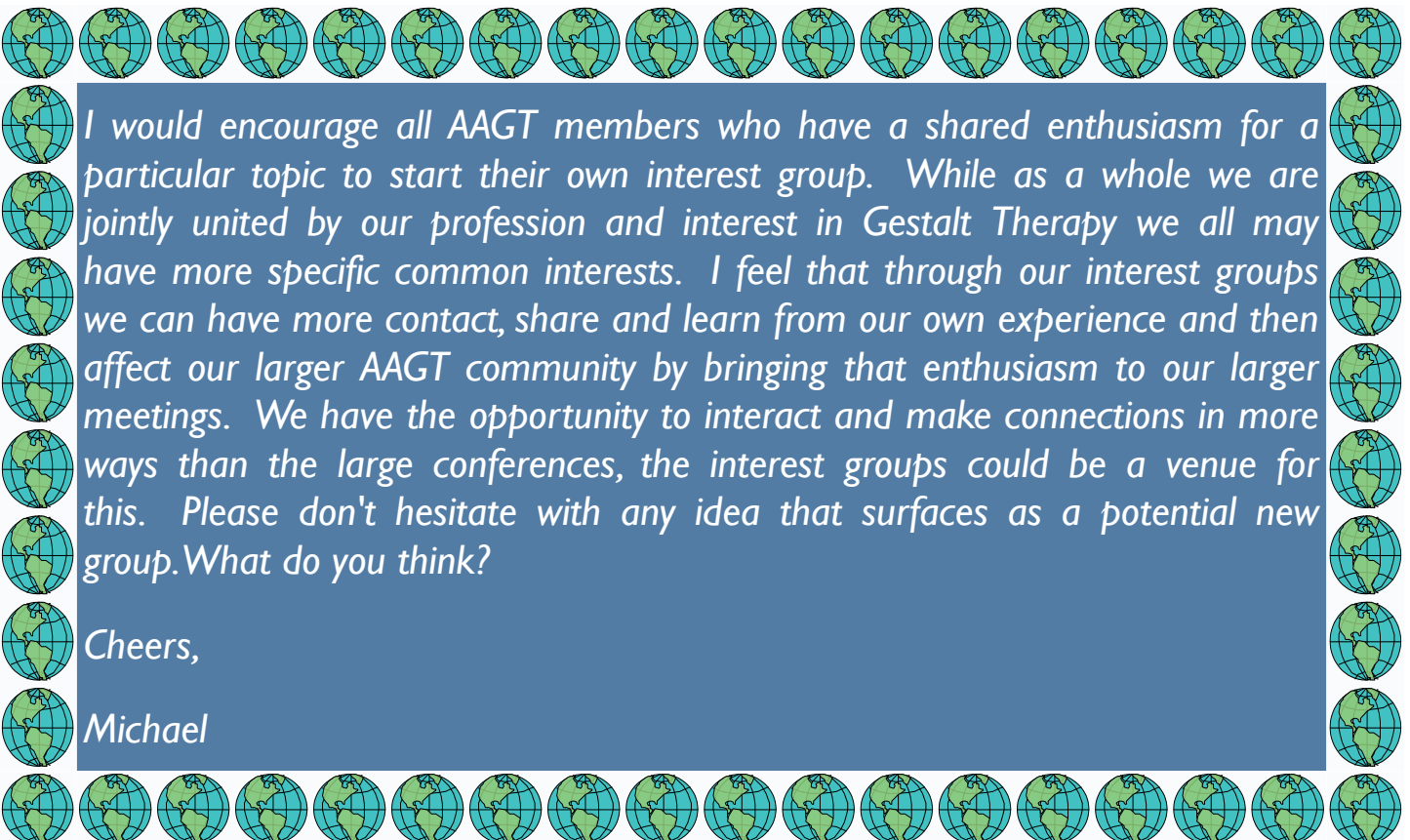
## Michael Diettrich-Chastain Takes Interest in the Interest Groups!

Greetings,

My name is Michael Diettrich-Chastain and I recently took over the position of Interest Group Coordinator for AAGT. I have been a member of AAGT for less than a year but have been so inspired by the people I have met and the welcoming, supportive nature of the organization. My experience at the conference in Manchester this last summer was an unforgettable one. I was truly amazed with the amount of contact, friendship, education and excitement that went on during that week, it is a treasured experience. I look forward to the next conference but am also interested in how this excitement may be maintained. The interest groups within AAGT may be a way to hold this excitement that many of us experience at the larger conferences.

I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself in order to invite anyone who would like to start, change or be involved with an interest group the option of contacting me to discuss ideas or put things in motion. I feel that the interest groups can offer us a venue to keep dialogue going and energy high during and in between conferences. My sense is that one of the pieces that fuels AAGT is the activity between conferences. These interest groups could be an excellent chance to keep the enthusiasm high within a smaller community, to then be brought back to the larger community. I am excited for the opportunity to be active in AAGT and am open to being a support in anyway I can to already existing interest groups, and those who have yet to form. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, ideas or feedback.

Thanks!



*I would encourage all AAGT members who have a shared enthusiasm for a particular topic to start their own interest group. While as a whole we are jointly united by our profession and interest in Gestalt Therapy we all may have more specific common interests. I feel that through our interest groups we can have more contact, share and learn from our own experience and then affect our larger AAGT community by bringing that enthusiasm to our larger meetings. We have the opportunity to interact and make connections in more ways than the large conferences, the interest groups could be a venue for this. Please don't hesitate with any idea that surfaces as a potential new group. What do you think?*

*Cheers,*

*Michael*

# Community News

## Call for Papers—Gestalt!

Gestalt!, the online journal for gestalt therapy, is putting together an issue covering the Manchester AAGT conference. We need people who will serve as a reader for peer-reviewed articles to simply read and comment on (using a simple form) - perhaps once or twice in the course of a year. Gestalt! is newly revamped and will be putting out two issue each year. Readership is wide with about 6,000 people each month referring to it. We would also like to have people read an article from a mainline professional journal and then respond to that in an article of their own. If you might be interested in writing for Gestalt!, this is a way to start. If you have an article you've been working on, why not consider submitting it to Gestalt! The journal is referenced in the APA's databases just like Gestalt Review, the International Gestalt Journal, and Gestalt Theory. **If you would like to know more about this, contact Philip Brownell, Sr. Editor (phil@g-gej.org).**

## New research at the Gestalt Institute of San Francisco.

In a dissertation submitted to the Wright Institute in Berkeley California, Galia Schecthter earned her Doctorate in April 2008. The title "Towards Enhanced Self-compassion and Awareness of Common Humanity: An Empirical Study of Experiential Gestalt Workshops" asked three basic research questions: Would Gestalt Experiential Workshops, 1) increase self-Compassion 2) increase awareness of Common Humanity, 3) increase Empathy. The results of the research were very positive for all three questions! The research was based on a series of workshops led by Morgan Goodlander, MA. For more detailed information on the study review the dissertation or call the Gestalt Institute of San Francisco 415.383.3756, email [gestaltinstitute@yahoo.com](mailto:gestaltinstitute@yahoo.com)

## The Handbook for Theory, Research, and Practice in Gestalt Therapy

The Handbook is now out and available for purchase at <http://www.amazon.co.uk>. (be sure to consult the UK version of Amazon, for the book is not available through the American portal). The book is divided into three main parts. Part one explores a ground for research in gestalt therapy. Part two forms a methods section for the practice of gestalt therapy itself, and it covers the unity of theory, the phenomenological method, dialogical relationship, field-theoretical strategies, experimental freedom, and the unity of practice that are central to gestalt praxis. Part three concerns the formation of gestalt research communities and provides examples of people either doing or informed by research.

The chapter contributors to this book come from various places in the world: The Czech Republic, Australia, Sweden, Canada, USA, England, Israel, and Korea. They are Alan Meara, Anton Polák, Eva Gold, Stephen Zahm, Paul Barber, Leslie Greenberg, Talia Levine Bar Yoseph, Brian O'Neill, Peter Philippon, Todd Burley, Dan Bloom, Sylvia Fleming Crocker, Gary Yontef, Jungkyu Kim, Victor Daniels, Sean Gaffney, Joseph Melnick, Sari Scheinberg, Anna Johansson, Siobhán Conway-Hicks, and Philip Brownell.

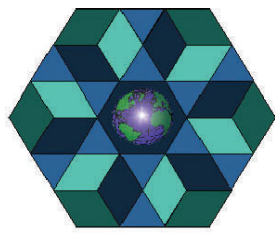
## New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy

Educational Programs - CEs Available

- \* Fundamentals of Gestalt Therapy - Wed. nights, Feb. 4 - Mar. 25
- \* Fundamentals of Gestalt Groups - Fri. nights, Feb. 14 - April 4
- \* Gestalt Approach to Sexuality - Thurs. nights, Mar. 12 - April 2

Contact: [info@newyorkgestalt.org](mailto:info@newyorkgestalt.org)





**AAGT**  
The Association for  
the Advancement of  
Gestalt Therapy  
An International Community

## **AAGT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

In accordance with AAGT's Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-Laws, the purpose of AAGT is to support the professional and personal associating and advancing of persons interested in participating in a forum committed to the preservation and advancement of the philosophy, theory, practice, and research of gestalt therapy and its various applications.

*In furtherance of this purpose, AAGT shall encourage the development and application of principles and practices in the organization that are consistent with the following tenets:*

**That an organization can be created**, rather than imposed, and that it will grow out of our contacting; and

**That a structure will emerge** in response to our shared needs, interests and concerns; and

**That by believing in the unity of theory and practice**, an organization that so creates itself, is itself an experiment, an on-going organic process of gestalt formation and destruction, in which old forms are destroyed and new figures emerge through contact that is bright and lively, energetic, graceful and fluid; and

**That such an organization provides the ground** for the enrichment, articulation and support of the constantly emerging figure that is **Gestalt Therapy!**

With these tenets as ground, we welcome as figure your **APPLICATION** to become a member of AAGT.

Membership entitles you to a listing in the AAGT Directory, reduced conference fees, opportunities to contribute to the gestalt community through our Service Exchange Program (SEP) and access to AAGT's Listserv.

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2008-2009**

Supporting Members \$150.00 OR more, your contribution to advancing Gestalt Therapy \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Full-Time Professionals who have been Members more than one year \$100.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New (first year) Professional Members and Part-Time Professionals \$50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Retirees and Full-Time Student Members \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Organizational Membership for Training Programs New is \$100.00, \$150.00 thereafter \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Fund Donation – your contribution to those less-able to participate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBER INFORMATION** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title, Degree or Prefix \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s): Home \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

### **PAYMENT OPTIONS**

TO PAY ON-LINE go to: [AAGT.org](http://AAGT.org)


TO PAY BY CHECK: Checks must be drawn on U.S. banks, made payable to AAGT. Send check with this form to: Adam Weitz, AAGT Administrator, 31 Union Square West #10D, New York, NY 10003 USA

TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD Visa and MasterCard only. Send to Adam Weitz at the above address

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Philadelphia here we come! CONFERENCE 2010 UPDATE



**Save these dates:  
June 3 through June 6, 2010.**

AAGT has chosen Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA for the next international conference. One of the oldest cities in North America with cobblestone streets in CenterCity and rows of intact 18<sup>th</sup> century townhouses, Philadelphia has grown from its origins on the Delaware River to encompass an area of over 5 million people. It is close to New York, Baltimore, and Washington and has excellent air connections to cities around the globe.

Philadelphia today includes historic Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, a vibrant nightlife scene, and many excellent restaurants reflecting the cuisines of its diverse population. This city's remarkable museum collections, galleries, outdoor murals, and public sculptures witness its major commitment to the arts. Fairmont Park, one of the largest municipal parks in the US with its array of former mansions and natural attractions, emerges from the city's heart to straddle valleys and hills to the north. All told, for our biannual international get-together Philadelphia will provide a dynamic urban geography where you are never far from nature.

The Conference Planning Committee chaired by co-conveners Cathy Gray and Burt Lazarin will include representatives of the many different committees working to bring the conference to life such as peer review (soliciting and choosing the presentations), pre-conference workshops, publicity, special events, and welcoming. Many of you have already volunteered (thanks!) and at this moment we are confirming the committee chairs. More volunteers are needed. What committee do you want? Besides the intrinsic satisfaction of accomplishment and helping to create a great conference, committee work also enables you to better know your colleagues, network, even make some new friends. Let us know if you're interested by e-mailing Cathy ([cathybgray@gmail.com](mailto:cathybgray@gmail.com)) and Burt. ([brlaz@aol.com](mailto:brlaz@aol.com))



# Organizational News

## TRAINING IN INTERACTIVE GESTALT GROUP THERAPY

**Overview:** As I near the end of my professional career, I am more and more interested in providing training in the approach to gestalt group therapy which I call Interactive gestalt group therapy, or IGGT, [see attachment for greater detail on this approach.] I am currently very energized at the extremely enthusiastic reaction to the trainings in this modality which I have provided in Australia, Northern Ireland, England and Germany in the past few years, as well as of course in the U.S. The purpose of this mailing is to invite you to contact me about exploring the possibility of my coming to your area to provide such training. What follows is information to help you decide if you want to pursue this further.

**Structure:** My approach to training is experiential/didactic. That is, all participants are expected to be part of experiential groups in the interactive mode. Following each experience we look at the work just completed in terms of gestalt therapy and group dynamic principles. At times we look at the more comprehensive experience of this group in its entire life and in its particular field. Additionally at different points I give mini-lectures [5-15 minutes] on various aspects related to IGGT, always of course open to question and discussion. Depending on the particular group, opportunity may be offered to some participants to try their hand at the approach. Participants are given a variety of relevant literature such as articles, an annotated bibliography, handouts used with clients, etc.

**Time frames:** I have found this training to be effective with one-, two- and four-day schedules, each day consisting of two modules 2 ½ to 3 hours in length. Below are recommended parameters with each:

**Length of workshop.....# of participants.....My fee**

One-day-----8 to 10-----\$700 USD/diem

Two-day-----12 to 14-----\$600 USD/diem

Four-day-----14 to 16----- \$500 USD/diem

**Additional requirements:** Depending on the location I may require full or partial coverage of travel costs and accommodations [I prefer being privately hosted to being offered a hotel room]. The hosting organization will provide appropriate training space as well as transportation to and from airports and the training facility.

**Qualifications:** I bring to this endeavor forty years of work and study as a gestalt therapist with a specialty in group therapy. As mentioned above, I have provided training in numerous countries. Publications include *Gestalt Group Therapy: A Practical Guide* [2006], *Beyond the Hot Seat* [original 1980; revised 2008] and numerous relevant articles. A resume and references are available on request. My website [which is currently being revised] is: <http://geocities.com/beefeeder gestalt.com/>

**Contact: BUD FEDER, PH D Tel. 973.746.6815 or [bfeder@comcast.net](mailto:bfeder@comcast.net)  
37 BRUNSWICK RD  
MONTCLAIR, NJ 07042**

# Organizational News

## Gestalt Associates Training Los Angeles Presents:

### Los Angeles Gestalt Therapy Training Program & *Samplers in Seattle*

#### ***NEW! Samplers in Seattle NEW!***

#### ***Two Become One And Then There Are None! (Couples Therapy Revisited)***

From A Fusion Model to a Connection Model From Stencils & Templates to Movement & Process

**Robert W. Resnick, Ph.D. & Rita F. Resnick, Ph.D.—Internationally Renowned Couples Therapy Trainers**

This Couples Therapy Workshop, Jan 17 - 18, 2009 will form the beginning of an annual 3-4 weekend series in Seattle - dates to be determined. No commitment required for the series until AFTER this first workshop.

***Marriage and Relationships:*** (straight and gay) are, to a large extent, based on the assumption that two individuals fuse into one ( $2 \rightarrow 1 = \emptyset$ ). With divorce rates of over 50-60 % (1st marriages) and 70- 80% (2nd marriages), something is clearly wrong. This is even more alarming when you add to this the secretly "miserably married"- those remaining married because of fears of being alone, damaging the children, financial insecurity, religious doctrine, social stigma, cultural norms, etc. Looking at these figures one begins to see the magnitude of the problem. Simply put, given what actually happens in marriages and relationships, we either have to assume that almost all of us are severely and irreparably damaged, (pathologizing all of us), or, there is something fundamentally flawed with our model of relationships and marriage. Trying harder at that which does not work is clearly a recipe for disaster.

***Therapy:*** Rather than continuing to pathologize all of us (and trying to "fix" the relationship as most couples therapy models do), the Resnicks will present a process model of relationships based on changing from a *Fusion Model to a Connection Model*. In order to connect, you must have two. The implications of this paradigmatic shift are enormous (and refreshingly hopeful) for long term, primary relationships and marriage.

Distilled from doing/teaching/training couples therapy for over 40 and 25 years respectively, Bob and Rita Resnick have evolved a process model of relationships and marriage that emphasizes two crucial and organizing relationship issues: (1) *the Basic Human Dilemma: How to be connected to another and maintain a self...* and (2) *Dealing with Differences*. With rare exception, how couples deal with differences is much more important than what the differences actually are.

***Theory:*** Theory presentations, including live as well as videotaped clinical work with real couples (several model couples needed) hopefully making both theory and practice more meaningful. The Resnicks are *real* therapists working with *real* clients on *real* issues. Comparisons with CBT (including Gottman), Emotionally Focused, Psychoanalytic, Postmodern, and other models will be addressed. Questions, comments and discussion are encouraged.

#### ***Couples Therapy Revisited!***

**Date:** January 17 - 18, 2009 **Time:** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm **Location:** Seattle  
**Fees:** \$350

For discounted, early registration and student fees go to: [www.gatla.org](http://www.gatla.org)

**Contact** Rita Resnick Ph.D: [ritaresnick@gatla.org](mailto:ritaresnick@gatla.org)

**Registration/Information:** [www.gatla.org](http://www.gatla.org)

**CE Credits:** 12

# Organizational News

## GATLA

1460 7th St.  
Suite 300  
Santa Monica, California 90401

Tel & Fax:  
(310) 395-6844

Email:  
[ritaresnick@gatla.org](mailto:ritaresnick@gatla.org)

[www.gatla.org](http://www.gatla.org)

### Los Angeles:

### Six Weekend Gestalt Therapy Training Program for Therapists

GATLA is offering a multi-year six weekend post-graduate training program in Gestalt Therapy - a process based phenomenological approach. This program is open to psychotherapists, students in advanced levels of training to become therapists and some allied professionals.

#### THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES TO:

- Observe seasoned clinicians working
- Learn Cutting Edge Gestalt Theory
- Work as Therapist with live supervision
- Develop your own personal style of doing therapy.
- Integrate clinical work and theory.

Come and join our warm, supportive, challenging, creative program. For Additional information and to Register: [www.gatla.org](http://www.gatla.org)

#### WEEKEND TRAINING DATES:

October 3-4, 2008; November 15-16, 2008, January 10-11, 2009; February 7-8, 2009; April 18-19, 2009; May 2-3, 2009.

TIME: 9:30am - 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday

LOCATION: Santa Monica

FEES: \$1800.00 limited scholarship funds available

Watch for News about GATLA's  
Summer Residential Workshops, July 2009

[View Photos from Summer Residential Programs 2008](#)



# Organizational News

## INDIANAPOLIS GESTALT INSTITUTE

**2009 Gestalt Training Program 01/17/09 - 11/21/09**

**Where: Indianapolis, Indiana USA**

Now in our fourth decade as a training institute for Gestalt therapy, we are proud to offer this program for 2009. Our Gestalt Training Program is the entry point for students interested in becoming Gestalt therapy practitioners. Our groups are typically composed of human service professionals who want more out of their careers and their lives. The foundation for this vibrant program as well as our motto is "training from the inside out." This means that we conscientiously create a milieu within our training program which supports the trainees to stretch and grow personally as well as professionally. Our staff have decades of experience utilizing Gestalt therapy in their own practices. Most have published in professional journals and have conducted trainings nationally and internationally.

Goals of the training sessions include acquiring the fundamental principles of Gestalt therapy and theory, an introduction to the principles of Relational Gestalt Therapy and an intense focus on the personal growth of the trainee.

The program is held on 8 Saturdays per calendar year (4 each semester):

January 17, 2009	August 22, 2009
March 7, 2009	September 19, 2009
April 18, 2009	October 24, 2009
June 6, 2009	November 21, 2009

The day begins at 9am and finishes at 6:30pm

*35 Hours Clinical Training per semester (70 per year)*

- ♦ *Certificate awarded*
- ♦ *Complete fee is \$900/semester or 1800/year*
- ♦ *Continuing Education: 35 CEs will be awarded each semester upon completion*



Sponsored events include IGI Salons which are 2 hour offerings usually held at the IGI office. Salons are led by IGI staff or friends of IGI and are designed to provide a relaxed but stimulating time. A variety of topics will be presented including cutting edge gestalt practices, new thinking about relationships, the art of meditation, and other creative endeavors. Come and join us and meet some of the folks who are in our community. Check our website for details.

# Organizational News

Center for  
Somatic Studies

*movement is the root of psychological functioning*

## **Developmental Somatic Psychotherapy™**

**developmental process embodied within the clinical moment**

**Two-Year Training Program New York City**

**2009-2011**

Developmental Somatic Psychotherapy, created by Ruella Frank, Ph.D., is a relational and movement-oriented approach to psychotherapy within a gestalt therapy framework.

Inspired by the work of developmental psychologists and somatic practitioners, Developmental Somatic Psychotherapy is a template for understanding and working with early psychophysical blocks as they emerge in the here-and-now of therapy. Attending to movement patterns is particularly powerful when guided by contemporary developmental theory.

### **Training Schedule**

#### **Module One**

September 20-26, 2009

#### **Module Two**

April 11-17, 2010

#### **Module Three**

September 19-25, 2010

#### **Module Four**

April 10-16, 2011

### **Trainings meet for five full days and two half days per module:**

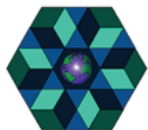
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday	9:30am - 5:30pm
Wednesday	9:30am - 1:00pm
Saturday	9:30am - 1:30pm

**Ruella Frank, Ph.D.** has been exploring early infant movements and their relationship to the adult since the mid-1970s. She is the director of the Center for Somatic Studies, faculty at Gestalt Associates for Psychotherapy and the New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy, and also teaches throughout the United States, Europe, South America and Mexico.

Ruella is author of articles and chapters in various publications, as well as the book *Body of Awareness: A Somatic and Developmental Approach to Psychotherapy*, available in five languages.

**For further information and to apply, visit the Center's website at [www.somaticstudies.com](http://www.somaticstudies.com) or send an [email](#) with your contact information.**

124 West 93rd Street, #2C New York, NY 10025 **212 662 3322**



**AAGT** An International Community  
 Charlie Bowman, Communications Director  
 9292 N. Meridian Street #311  
 Indianapolis, IN USA 46260

## **YOUR AAGT NEWSLETTER IS HERE!**

Publications Editor:  
 Marcy Stern

Communications Director:  
 Charlie Bowman

### **Publication Guidelines:**

Articles accepted between 500 and 1500 words. Content relates to Gestalt therapy, AAGT and the creativity and interest of the membership. Letters to the Editor should be succinct and to the point. All material submitted remains the property of the Newsletter staff. Deadlines are final. Style can be informal, but should be good writing. All material is subject to editing to fit the parameters and needs of any given issue of the Newsletter.

The content herein represents the opinions of contributing authors and not the policies or procedures of AAGT unless otherwise specified.

### **Let Us Get To Know You!**

- List yourself in the AAGT Directory
- Subscribe to the AAGT Newsletter (e-mail your request to [aagtone@gmail.com](mailto:aagtone@gmail.com))
- Join the AAGTMembers Listserv—*A AAGT e-community* (e-mail your request to [aagtone@gmail.com](mailto:aagtone@gmail.com))